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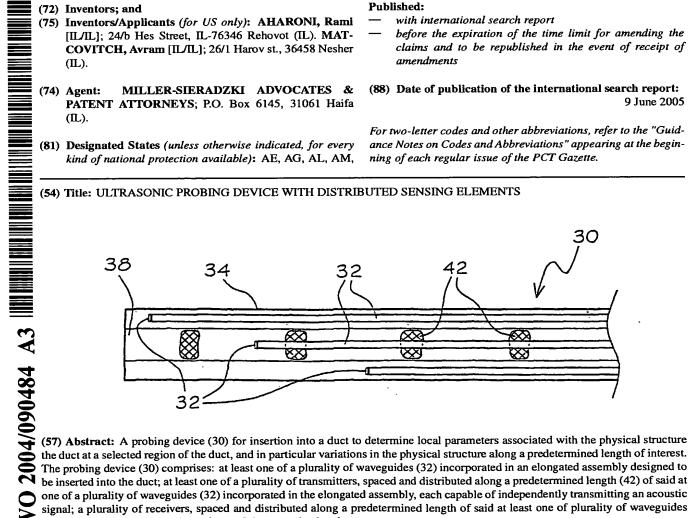
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one of a plurality of waveguides (32) incorporated in the elongated assembly, each capable of independently transmitting an acoustic signal; a plurality of receivers, spaced and distributed along a predetermined length of said at least one of plurality of waveguides (32), each capable of receiving echoes of the acoustic signal.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  IPC(7) : A61B 8/00 US CL : 600/437  According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC  B. FIELDS SEARCHED  Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S.: 600/407-478; 128/916; 604/22; 606/15, 130, 139				
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched				
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) Please See Continuation Sheet				
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where a	Relevant to claim No.		
Α	US 6,231,567 B1 (RIZOIU et al.) 15 May 2001 (15.05.2001) entire document. 1-60			
A	US 6,527,763 B2 (ESCH et al.) 04 March 2003 (04.03.2003), entire document.		1-60	
Further	documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	See patent family annex.		
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28 November 2004 (28.11.2004)  Name and mailing address of the ISA/US  Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US  Commissioner for Patents  P.O. Box 1450  Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230  Authorized officer  Au				

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